

## SECOND ANNUAL

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 1000 No. 1 Brahman yearling crossbred steers 700-750 lbs.  
 1100 No. 1 Brahman yearling crossbred steers 675-725 lbs.  
 365 choice yearling steers 800-850 lbs.  
 200 choice yearling steers 750-900 lbs.

600 choice yearling steers 700-750 lbs.  
 700 choice quality yearling steers 700-750 lbs.  
 1000 choice quality yearling steers 700-750 lbs.  
 400 choice quality yearling steers 700-775 lbs.  
 250 choice yearling steers 750-800 lbs.  
 200 choice yearling heifers 700-750 lbs.  
 250 choice yearling heifers 675-750 lbs.  
 250 choice yearling steers 750-800 lbs.  
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These are all rancher owned cattle in their first hands, which is a requirement to consign to this selling event.



Livestock and meat groups feel . . .

### Government should pay interest on bills

Four livestock and meat groups recently supported a bill that would require the federal government to pay interest to federal contractors, such as meat packers, on overdues accounts.

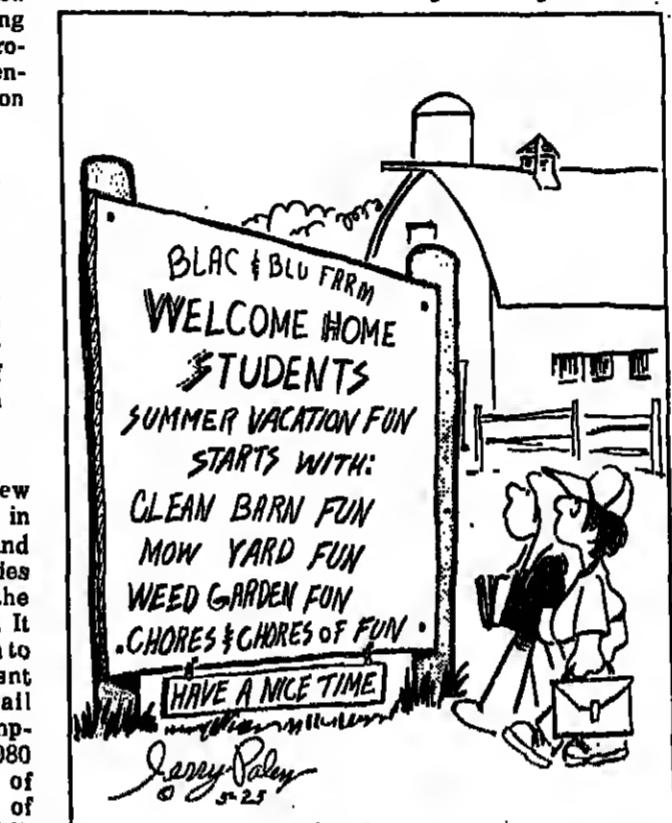
Reports CNS, the bill, introduced by Senator John Danforth, (R-Mo.), was also supported at a Senate government affairs subcommittee hearing by a coalition of 26 diverse trade

organizations whose members sell to the federal government. The Danforth legislation would require government agencies to pay their suppliers interest on bills the government failed to pay within 30 days.

However, the four meat groups—The National Cattlemen's Assn., the National Pork Producers Council, the National Meat Assn. (Continued on page 3)

### STAMPEDE

By Jerry Palen



### BLM director cites need for more local decision making

By LARRY MARSHALL

Robert Burford, in his first official press conference since being sworn in as director of the Bureau of Land Management, gave every indication that Reagan Administration promises will be kept and public land use streamlined.

In Denver to swear in new Colorado state director George Francis, Burford

addressed many of the

problems cattlemen and

other public land users have

had with the BLM over the

past few years.

Burford is working to push decision-

making back to local levels,

improve on the BLM image

as a "good neighbor" and

improve on the permit-

issuing process.

He told Western Livestock Journal his first decision in office was to push the decision-making as far down the ladder as it would go. "Those people at local and state levels know the issues and know them best," he said. "In most decisions Washington shouldn't enter into them at all."

This is part of an overall program to make the bureau more responsive, according to Burford. He said it wouldn't change many policies as much as it might "resurrect some that have been forgotten." These would (Continued on page 11)

The drought area in the central U.S. has been slowly decreasing during May. Global Weather Services (GWS) said recently.

Report CNS, rain during the past two to three weeks in northern and eastern Kansas, much of Missouri, southern Iowa and southeastern Nebraska has eased there, particularly regarding soil moisture for spring crop growth.

However, additional rain is necessary in order to completely break the drought, including replenishing ponds and stream levels and raising depleted water tables.

Portions of the northern Corn Belt remain too wet at midmonth, according to the National Weather Service and USDA, Crop Moisture Index and GWS. The wettest area of the belt is centered around Lafayette, Ind., where more than 4 inches of rain has occurred in May.

Drought conditions have continued in the northern Plains, GWS said. Although rainfall of nearly 1 inch occurred recently in eastern Montana, the current dry pattern still includes much of the eastern half of that state and nearly all of the Dakotas and Minnesota, except southeastern Minnesota.

Regulatory reform— "I don't need to tell you that there are a lot of regulations on the books that need to be changed . . . you're not going to do away with all regulations, but what we're going to attempt to do . . . is try to simplify the regulatory

## WESTERN LIVESTOCK JOURNAL



News • Trends • Sales • Shows • Markets

May 25, 1981

Central Edition

Vol. 60, No. 30

### Cattle-on-feed report bearish

Sharply lower live and feeder cattle futures are expected following a government report showing "overplacement" in feedlots and sluggish fed-cattle marketing last month, livestock analysts said.

"Comments being up like this and markets being down is a shock," Levitt said. "There had to have been a lot of pent up demand and feedlots bought feeder cattle like gangbusters." A number of factors during April led cattle feeders to aggressively place cattle, said Curtis Mohon, a livestock analyst with Thomson McKinnon Securities Inc.

Advancing fed cattle prices boosted cattlemen's (Continued on page 11)

### McMillan calls for economy shake-up

By CAROLYN J. HURST

"Cattle prices are going to get better, and hog prices are going to get better, but not for awhile. And, I'll tell you why . . . you have to get the economy better first."

Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Bill McMillan made that comment to the annual Mountain/Plains Meat Club meeting, in Denver. Over 100 cattlemen and other meat industry supporters attended the dinner meeting on the National Western Stockshow grounds.

In his comments, McMillan outlined four major points in President Reagan's economic program that "we need your continuing support for. The people in the livestock industry have been great in helping us up to this point," McMillan said, "but the battle is long from over."

The four areas stressed by McMillan as essential to the future success of the livestock industry were:

• Balancing the budget—"We're going to cut back the fat, but not in kind of an abusive way," the Assistant Secretary said.

The food stamp and school lunch programs were two areas which will receive cuts according to McMillan.

• Tax reform—McMillan said President Reagan's tax plan is "an entire tax package, not just a tax cut." That's important to you in business. The tax package covers such things as investment credit, capital gains, accelerated depreciation," he said. "Let's call them tax incentives."

• Regulatory reform—"I don't need to tell you that there are a lot of regulations on the books that need to be changed . . . you're not going to do away with all regulations, but what we're going to attempt to do . . . is try to simplify the regulatory

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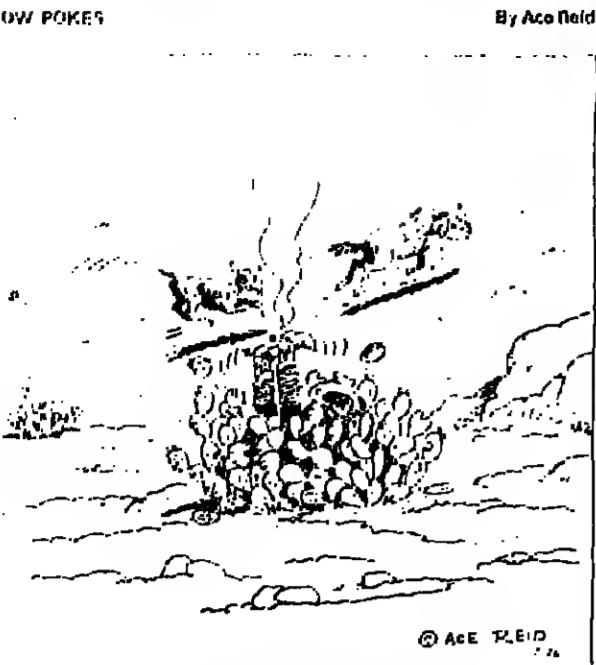
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McMill



"Wul, nothin' aams to be goin' right far ma today!"

## Interest hike is not expected to cause commodity crash

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## Trade pact with Mexico to be signed soon, says U.S.

The U.S. and Mexico are expected to sign a one-year agricultural trade agreement for 1982, replacing the current pact, when Mexico's President Juan Lopez Portillo visits Washington June 8-9. U.S. government and trade sources said.

Reports US, discussions about the agreement with Mexico, the third largest importer of U.S. agricultural goods, are still underway and a final agreement has not been fully negotiated. Sources said, however, that it will follow the loose pattern of the annual agreements of 1980 and 1981, setting general guidelines for Mexico's import of U.S. grain and oilseeds.

One USDA official said that although the 1982 agreement may set grain and oilseed imports for Mexico near those of 1981—6,150 to 8,180 million tons—Mexico's actual imports next year may be lower than in 1981.

The reason is that Mexico has expended domestic production, especially of edible beans and corn for human consumption, and anticipated good weather could markedly improve output.

Mexico will also be able to rebuild stocks during the current year, though not up to optimum levels. The official said recent agreements between Mexico and other grain exporting nations, such as Argentina and Canada, may also cut down on the U.S. share of Mexico's market.

Livestock futures traders are wary about selling into the cattle, hog and pork markets in any big way because the approach of increased demand associated with seasonal summer uses coincides with marketings that are light for the season.

In grain futures, ideal last year about a drought during the 1981 growing season played a large role in the price runup that preceded the December crash in futures. Moisture conditions have improved markedly in many parts of the Midwest recently, however, and that has generally tended to keep grain futures "more in line with reality," one analyst said.

Other sources said that because Mexico is emphasizing crops for human consumption such as corn and edible beans, imports of U.S. edible beans might dip in 1982 but feed grain

imports might increase because land planted to sorghum might be switched to corn for human consumption.

Planted to sorghum might be switched to corn for human consumption.

Perhaps the most controversial aspect of the current agreement is the provision for direct government-to-government sales of agricultural products, for Elanco Products Company, the agricultural marketing division of Eli Lilly and Company. He has been serving as a marketing associate for cattle products for the past two years.

that originally asked for the one-year 1980 agreement.

U.S. Agriculture Secretary John Block caused some concern in Mexico when he said earlier this year that he did not think an agricultural pact between the two nations was needed.

The Regan Administration apparently changed its position after Mexico, a major trading partner and supplier of oil to the U.S., made it clear that it wanted another agreement.

One USDA official said an agreement with Mexico made practical sense because of the proximity of the nations and the large amount of trade that goes on.

Also, many U.S. agricultural exports move by rail to Mexico. Close coordination between the two nations was necessary to clear up the rail logjam that caused an embargo of rail movement to Mexico last year, the official said. The agreement helped make that end continuing work on rail problems easier, he said.

On a daily basis, we fight off colds, flu, measles and a variety of other infections caused by bacteria or viruses. We know these microbes are common to humans, so we cope with them.

But what about all of the microbes common to animals that also can cause disease in humans? These diseases are known as zoonoses.

These diseases can spread from animals to humans through direct contact: eating, handling and breathing. Eating these disease agents is easy because dangerous microbes can be found in contaminated water, unpasteurized milk and improperly cooked meat. Hands can become contaminated while handling animals, animal parts or products. Finally, farmers and ranchers may breathe small particles produced by infected animals or dusts from contaminated feed and wastes.

To control these diseases, it is necessary to first recognize what they are and where they are found. To aid in that task, Colorado State University has com-

## Government should pay interest on bills

(Continued from page 1)

and the American Meat Institute—asked that the bill be amended to require the government to pay their meat bills within seven days. The meat groups, represented by Frank Bauer of Max Bauer Meats Packer Inc., said seven-day payment terms are standard in the meat industry.

Bauer said the meat industry needed the seven-day terms because the Packers and Stockyards Act requires packers to pay for the livestock they purchase before the end of the next business day.

Since the government is often late in paying its meat bills, a packer frequently has to borrow money at current high interest rates to pay its own suppliers. The packer's interest payments on this borrowed money could totally wipe out any profits the meat packer might have made from his sole to the government. He said the latest AMI meat packer survey showed that meat packer profits average only 1.5% per dollar of sales.

The federal government purchases a substantial volume of meat annually. In 1980, the U.S. military alone consumed 319 million lbs. of red meat on a carcass weight basis, Bauer said.



TEAM WORK—Members of the University of Southern Colorado Judging Team got a workout during the recent New Mexico Brahman Bull Sale. The team was en route from Pueblo, Colo., to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

## Six states report scabies outbreak

Two outbreaks of porcupine cattle scabies were confirmed during April in California, Kansas, Minnesota, New Mexico, South Dakota and Texas, the USDA said recently, reports CNS.

Single outbreaks were reported in Alameda and Contra Costa, Calif.; Renville County, Minn.; Curry County, New Mexico; Corson County, S.D.; and Swisher County, Texas. The four remaining outbreaks were in Kansas in Graham, Norton, Ness and Sheridan Counties.

The 10 outbreaks in April are below the 16 reported in April last year, USDA said. Since Oct. 1, 1980, there have been 127 cases of cattle scabies reported nationwide.

## CSU prints list of health hazards; says control hinges on prevention

can lead to infection, disease, disability or death.

Most urbanites will never come in contact with many of these microbes. Most rural residents, however, come in contact with disease-causing bacteria, viruses or parasites routinely. It is the nature of their work.

These diseases can spread from animals to humans through direct contact with the organism.

Brucellosis, also called "Bang's Disease," is found mostly in cattle but also in horses, pigs, sheep and goats. People get this disease when they touch infected animals or animal parts.

In particular, textile workers who handle skin, hair and hides are more likely to come into contact with the organism.

Plague is caused by bacteria. Fleas take their meal of blood from infected animals, usually rodents, then become infected. Once the rodent dies from plague, the flea has no place to feed. If humans or family pets come into areas where rodents have died of plague, they may find the hungry fleas very willing to feed on them. Once this has happened, the transmission of plague is complete.

Recently, 28 people were exposed to fleas when a bull was brought to Colorado. Of these 28 persons, five had to undergo extensive treatment to prevent fatal infection.

Many other rural activities result in potentially hazardous situations that

can be transmitted when humans eat pork meat that is not cooked until white in the center. The transmission of tularemia bacteria is similar to trichinosis except that tularemia is found primarily in rabbits and sheep.

Control of zoonoses is based on prevention. The key to prevention is recognizing symptoms of disease in animals before the infection gets out of control. Another important aspect of prevention is the routine immunization of animals to prevent diseases.

It is important to remember that outbreaks of zoonotic diseases are not common today only because the diseases have been controlled. They have not been eliminated since the diseases still exist, they need to be monitored and

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## Obituaries

### ERNEST SPITZIGERBER

Ernest Spitzigerber of Prairie Center, Wyo., died at the Community Hospital in Torrington, Wyo., April 19. He was 66. Born Oct. 15, 1914, at the family home in Prairie Center, he was the son of Hugo and Mathie Jorgenson Spitzigerber.

He married Darlene Somer of Wyo., in 1938. The couple moved to their Prairie Center ranch in 1947.

Spitzigerber was a member of the Wyoming Stockgrowers Assn.; served as treasurer of the Gothenburg County Stockgrowers; was past president of the Gothenburg County Fair Board and the Rocky Mountain Assn. of Fairs; was past secretary of the Wyoming Simmental Assn.; was a 4-H leader; served on the board of directors of the Gothenburg County Farm Bureau and served on the school boards of Wyo. County, Neb., and Gothenburg County, Wyo.

In 1976, Spitzigerber was awarded the John N. Strenger memorial plaque for his outstanding service to the Wyoming Simmental Assn. He was recognized by the Wyoming Extension Service for his contribution to beef herd improvement.

Survivors include his wife, Darlene of Torrington; two sons, Loren of Ridgeland, Wash., and Joel of Los Alamos, Calif.; two daughters, Janine Losse of Hayward, Calif., and Angela Babcock of Evanston, Wyo.; a brother, Dr. George Spitzigerber of Ft. Collins, Colo.; a sister, Jennifer Lander of Sun City, Ariz.; and a brother-in-law,

John Spitzigerber of Cheyenne, Wyo.

Services were held Saturday morning at the Community

Church in Torrington.

Interment was in the

Community Cemetery in

Torrington.

Memorials may be sent to the

Community Church in

Torrington.

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## Meat export expansion hinges on packers, trade laws, says officials

Expanding the volume of U.S. meat exports will require high-level U.S. pressure for reduction of non-tariff trade barriers and perhaps a change in meat packer attitudes toward the export market, government and industry officials told CNS.

U.S. Agriculture Secretary John Block has said pinning increased emphasis on the export of value-added U.S. agricultural products, such as meat, will be one of his top trade priorities. Officials of the U.S. Trade Representative's (USTR) Office also have cited reducing non-tariff trade barriers that limit value-added exports as top priority.

One of the challenges the U.S. faces will be going to negotiate overhang with which to push for relaxation of most trade barriers such as quotas, several sources said.

**U.S. Meat Export Fed-**

eration President Alan Middaugh told CNS the best way the U.S. could gain leverage to increase market access for U.S. beef in the European Economic Community would be to fill the EEC's current 10,000-ton annual U.S. beef import quota.

Only about 1,000 tons of U.S. beef entered the EEC under that quota last year, and shipments of about 3,000 are expected this year, according to a USDA official. The EEC is considered one of the largest potential markets for U.S. beef.

However, meat packers have been hesitant to ship to the EEC while such issues as EEC health requirements and a possible EEC hormone ban remain unresolved, the USDA official said. The EEC has proposed a list of health requirements for livestock slaughter and inspection with which many U.S. meat plants cannot comply.

Although these unresolved requirements are not a total deterrent to U.S. exports, they add an element of uncertainty to the meat export business, which even under the best circumstances is complicated, he said.

"The government is just now coming around to the fact that the EEC health requirements are a political problem and not a veterinary problem," Middaugh said. The fact that the U.S. had approached the requirements as a veterinary problem tended to prolong the health issue.

Bryan Wadsworth, deputy director of the dairy, livestock and poultry division of USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, said packers need to become consistent exporters if the U.S. is to substantially increase its meat export aid.

Under a previously negotiated formula, Japan's quota for U.S. high-quality

beef is scheduled to increase each year until reaching 30,800 tons in Japanese fiscal year 1983. Middaugh said the U.S. in 1982 should start pressuring Japan to raise the 1984 quota to at least 50,000 tons.

He said implementation of beef quality grade changes proposed by the National Cattlemen's Assn. might make U.S. beef more acceptable to foreign customers. Japanese consumers will accept heavy beef, yield-grades 4 and 5, but "for" beef causes problems in Europe where consumers are unfamiliar with marbled meat, he said.

Middaugh said mechanically deboned meat could become an important export item if it could be produced in substantial amounts. It could be sold to markets such as Southeast Asia, where there is a protein deficit.

Middaugh said the oil-rich nations, such as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, which have virtually no meat import restrictions, are large potential markets for U.S. beef—provided it is slaughtered according to Islamic requirements. However, pork would be almost totally excluded from Middle East markets.

For pork, the Caribbean nations have as much market potential as Japan, where pork exports are hampered by gate prices, according to Simpson. However, in the Caribbean and Venezuela—another major market—pork imports are mostly controlled by government-issued import licenses, he said.

Pork importers have been trying to convince the Venezuelan government to import pork year round, he said. Pork import licenses there tend to be issued seasonally, mostly near the Christmas season, Simpson said.

Wadsworth said many

packers have considered exporting meat only when domestic freezers are full. In addition to EEC trade barriers, U.S. exporters also face competition in other markets from subsidized EEC meat exports. Subsidized beef exports from EEC intervention stocks go mostly to Eastern Europe, the USSR and Spain, according to USDA

experts. That's no annual loss of 5.6 billion tons of soil, a persistent statistic despite efforts to bring it down.

Farmers, ranchers and conservation specialists estimate that putting all of the lost nitrogen and phosphorus and one-fourth of the lost potassium back into the damaged land would add up to \$18 billion in just one year.

Conservationists emphasize that the stakes in protecting farm topsoil are like bags of money floating down the nation's rivers. Figured at 1979 prices, USDA soil conservation specialists estimate that putting all of the lost nitrogen and phosphorus and one-fourth of the lost potassium back into the damaged land would add up to \$18 billion in just one year.

Dollars are just part of the problem. This past summer's long stretch of 100-degree-plus temperatures in some areas stirred memories of the dust clouds that plagued Great Plains states like Oklahoma and Texas nearly half a century ago.

Although the hot, dry summer of 1980 was mild compared to the "Dust Bowl" of the mid-1930's, it did reduce food production.

The recent drought piled soil dunes on the sides of buildings and on highways, sent soil into homes, muddled drinking water, made food on the table gritty and killed dreams of some farm and ranch families.

Some people living in the Great Plains preyed for rain and hung wet sheets over windowsills across cribs so babies could breathe easier.

Yet, this was only a relatively gentle reminder of what can happen in the future if the pace of erosion

is not slowed, Berg said. At today's erosion rate, he said, food supplies will be seriously threatened in about 100 years. In Iowa, for example, half of the original topsoil—six to eight inches—already has been lost from sloping, unprotected land during the century the state has been farmed.

Fortunately, said Berg,

the country has the know-how to bring soil erosion under control.

"By using modern conservation methods and advanced agricultural technology, we can prevent another Dust Bowl," Berg said. "Terraces, conservation tillage, contour strip cropping, grassed waterways and other practices help save the land. Many of the country's former and ranchers are aware of this and are taking appropriate actions."

"However, on land that has no conservation measures, erosion continues."

**Pseudorabies up on Minn. farms**

Pseudorabies cases in swine and other livestock in Minnesota increased more than 25% during the first quarter of 1981, compared with the first quarter of 1980, according to Walt Mackey of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health.

Reports CNS, a study done by Mackey showed that 75% of the cases were the result of purchasing infected breeding stock or feeder pigs.

**SHOP TALK**—Visiting prior to the Redd Ranch sale, Paradox, Colo., was Dennis Lammi (left), extension beef specialist, Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, and the Dohertys from John L. Doherty and Sons Ranch, Polum, N.M. Doherty purchased some Red Angus bulls in the sale. [Staff photo by Jerry York]

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**Moss Ranch Quarter Horse Production Sale**  
Saturday, June 6, 1981  
11 a.m. at the ranch • Dixon, Montana  
Featuring **55** Head of 1981  
baby colts

A hungry future?

Erosion reminiscent of dirty 30's

Erosion robs this country of enough soil to cover the state of Iowa with a layer one inch thick each year, and this often comes from the best land, say USDA experts.

Berg said the soil losses are like bags of money floating down the nation's rivers. Figured at 1979 prices, USDA soil conservation specialists estimate that putting all of the lost nitrogen and phosphorus and one-fourth of the lost potassium back into the damaged land would add up to \$18 billion in just one year.

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**Moss Ranch Quarter Horse Production Sale**  
Saturday, June 6, 1981  
11 a.m. at the ranch • Dixon, Montana

**Featuring 55 Head of 1981  
baby colts**

15 head two and three year old well started geldings

5 head choice quality yearlings sired by these outstanding stallions:

Pacific Jet—AAA son of Jet Deck  
Majestic Dawn—Our own son of Sugar Bear  
Cale B. Bar—102 speed index—son of Birth-day Bar

Lunar Chick—91 speed index son of Triple Chick (owned by Russ Sherman, guest consignor of 13 head)

Berd Parker—AA, own son of Three Bars (owned by Fay Haynes, guest consignor of 7 head)

Tar's Candy Man—A racing ROM son of Tar's Veniture (owned by Gilbert Holyoak and Bob Cardle, guest consignor of 12 head)

**PACIFIC JET**

Buy baby colts now and leave them with their mothers until October.

We'll feed 'em free till then.

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Plan to be there June 6th

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EXPERIENCED rancher terminal for 100 acre hay and cattle ranch, Tracy, California. Housing available. 209/631-8420.

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CHORE MAN NEEDED to take care of milking cows, wean calves, sows, feeder pigs and yard work on a small farm. Box 32, Adel, OR 97820.

RELIABLE MARRIED MAN for Nevada cattle and hay ranch. Must be able to do riding, leading, irrigating, tractor driving. Phone evenings. 702/423-4468.

NEED HELP on term contract Nevada, irrigation, maintenance mechanical. Experience necessary. Board & room/fees. 702/471-2124, Box 6134, Washington Station, Reno, NV 89503.

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IRRIGATOR for Colorado mountain ranch. Must be experienced and preferably single. Also need experienced, single ranch hand. Job tenuring and general ranch work. Call: 303/260-3439.

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foremen, Manger area. Holstein degree, experience, balance prior experience. To 300 acres with excellent housing facilities for family. Write Ad. Capt. 974 o/o WJL.

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Registered bulls and cows. All ages, red and gray. Some Polled steer. L. Bar W

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PROGRESSIVE, AMBITIOUS young farm/ranch manager desires employment with progressive operators; prefer absentee owner. College-educated. Superbly experienced. Can handle all phases of term/ranch management; prior teaching experience; good communication skills; head capacity. Understand hill operation and feedlot management. Write Ad Dept. 673 o/o WJL.

Not if you advertise your cattle in the WLJ Classified Corral.

MANAGER'S JOB WANTED Experienced ranch manager, married, 33; desire to manage progressive commercial cattle ranch. Experienced in herd management, range and feedlot operation, wheel line, feedlot, feed, grain production. Superbly experienced. College education. Excellent references. Adequate owner preferred. Opportunity for personal growth. Write Ad Dept. 572 o/o WJL.

**FARM FOREMAN**

For large, non-threshed cattle operation. Must be experienced all types of haymaking, grain, feed and sprouting. Irrigation. Ability to supervise men and work long dedicated hours. Good housing, salary and benefits.

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Many excellent improvements including 1,000 head feedlot.  
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